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interpretation of the term is; and he leaves no doubt as to what the thing itself is. Nevertheless, the classification is based upon the nature of the subject-matter. The book contains stories of action and adventure, stories of mystery and fantasy, stories of emotion, humorous stories, stories of setting, impressionistic stories, character studies, and psychological studies. Each group is accompanied by a critical treatment of the selections under it, a brief biography of each author, a few passages of quoted criticism, a list of references for furthering reading, a list of representative stories of the same class, and a number of suggestive questions for study. The book will be of as much interest to those who wish to write as to those who wish merely to study.

C. L. H.

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#### AMERICAN CONVERSATION

If you would hear yourself as others hear you, just listen while you read aloud a few chapters of this excellent little book.<sup>1</sup> If you are a real down-east Yankee, if you are a Far-Westerner, if you are from Dixie, or from the North Central states, or even from Missouri, you will find your own favorite little expressions repeated, and your grandmother's and your children's as well. Planned on the lines of Dr. Kron's well-known *Little Londoner*, the book is admirably adapted to the use of foreigners who wish to travel in the United States, do business with, or live among, Americans.

Beginning with calls and shopping, the very first need of speech is supplied for the beginner in simple sentences he would be most likely to need. Most Europeans accompany their speech with gestures so expressive that "getting on" with everyday conversation is made easy to the stranger. But Americans speak only with their tongues; so the stranger here has greater need for his guidebook to the language.

Many chapters are accompanied by lists of questions and possible or probable answers in regard to prices, conveniences, weather, health, directions, etc. Chapters on "Private Houses and Hotels," "Education," "Earning a Living," "Money, Weights, Measures," "Time," "Mail and Express," "Traveling on Land and Sea," "Transportation in Cities," and "Government" furnish a wealth of useful, almost indispensable, information. Just the things that are so common that one would scarcely think of telling them the authors have remembered and carefully explained.

<sup>1</sup> *The Little Yankee*. By Alfred D. Schoch, Ph.D., and R. Kron, Ph.D. Freiburg, Baden: J. Bielefelds Verlag, 1912. Pp. 192. M. 3.

Seldom is the spoken word forgotten in the printed form. Excellent little footnotes explain certain differences of meaning in the United States and in England, or add bits of necessary information that would seem irrelevant in the text, or point out discrepancies between the oral order and the printed order; as, for instance, "\$2 should be read two dollars" with the amount first, and "July 28" should be read "July the twenty-eighth or the twenty-eighth of July."

Stressed syllables are indicated by a single dot printed under the vowel, while idioms and Americanisms are printed in italics. Additional expressions for a similar meaning are inserted in parentheses and slight variations of form which would have a different meaning are shown in brackets. In most cases the author indicates slang terms by the insertion of the word "slang" in parentheses, but "swell occasions" and "money to burn" slip through without such comment. Vulgarisms are sedulously avoided.

The consistent misplacing of the word "only" and a few such errors as the use of "relations" for "relatives" are unfortunate in a book intended for the use of foreigners without a teacher. As a college textbook, a few such inadvertences would matter little, but to the beginner in English, word-order is one of the chief difficulties, and the wrong use of a word with a similar sound would scarcely be pointed out to a foreigner in conversation.

One is astonished to find the statement that "boiled or fried potatoes are an indispensable part of a regular breakfast." The definition of a shirtwaist is given as a waist that "has a starched collar and starched cuffs and opens down the front like a man's shirt."

"In ordinary restaurants most of the waiters if they were offered a tip would probably not accept it; some of them might even consider it an insult."

"Christmas trees are seldom seen in private houses, but there are public Christmas trees in some of the churches. . . ."

"A soft hat, when it has lost its shape and is about worn out, is called a *slouch hat*."

"Americans mostly wear laced shoes."

These are the few unlabeled departures from the composite picture.

In his chapter on American English Mr. Schoch states that Americans do not pronounce all their *aitches*. Indeed, he convinces you, also. Other peculiarities of inflection are set forth in this chapter in a unique and interesting manner. To the public speaker of foreign

birth who wishes to overcome his accent I emphatically recommend *The Little Yankee*.

In his preface the author invites criticism and suggestions for future editions. Taking advantage of that invitation, one might suggest that such abbreviations as U.S., 1st-cabin, etc., be spelled out; that the idiomatic "stands up for his *alma mater*" (p. 77) might be misconstrued by a foreigner; and that still more common expressions, such as "maid" for "serving-woman" (p. 62) and "goatee" for "imperial" (p. 51), might be added.

The book is printed in plain type on good paper and bound in flexible linen cover. Numerous typographical errors such as "an new law," "responsable," "heartly," "staates," "after new-year's," "une direction," detract from the satisfaction one feels in a well-printed textbook, and a few might be misleading to the student.

However, it is a book worth having on one's desk, a book in whose company any foreigner may safely start on a transcontinental trip from New York to San Francisco and be sure he will arrive without suffering serious inconvenience from lack of knowledge of the American speech. Thousands of foreigners enter American ports every day, many of them to make their homes here indefinitely, some to study a few years and then return. For many of them *The Little Yankee* would be a short cut to Americanization.

J. D. J.

#### BOOK NOTICES

[Mention under this head does not preclude review elsewhere.]

*Lessons in English.* By JOHN M. MANLY and ELIZA R. BAILEY. Book I. *Language Lessons.* Pp. xv+299. Illustrated. \$0.45. Book II, *Composition and Grammar.* Pp. xiii+354. Illustrated. \$0.60. Chicago: D. C. Heath & Co., 1912.

*Mary Ware's Promised Land.* By ANNIE FELLOWS JOHNSTON. Boston: L. C. Page & Co., 1912. Pp. 317. Illustrated. \$1.50.

*The Pioneer Boys of the Ohio.* By HARRISON ADAMS. Boston: L. C. Page & Co. Pp. 331. Illustrated. \$1.25.

*Our Little Polish Cousin.* By FLORENCE E. MENDEL. Boston: L. C. Page & Co., 1912. Pp. 147. Illustrated. \$0.60.

*Our Little Danish Cousin.* By LUNA MAY INNES. Boston: L. C. Page & Co., 1912. Pp. 154. Illustrated. \$0.60.

*Selected Lyrics from Wordsworth, Keats and Shelley.* Edited by CHARLES SWAIN THOMAS. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Co., 1913. Pp. 130.

The poems in Palgrave's "Golden Treasury" which were designated by the National Conference for "study."